

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

COSTELLO, Jerry F. (Democrat)
Representative, 12th District, Illinois
Elected 9Aug88 to 100th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: East St. Louis, Illinois - 25 September 1949

Home: Belleville, Illinois

Marital Status: Married (Georgia) - 3 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Belleville Area College, AA, 1970; Maryville College of the Sacred Heart, BA., 1972

Military: None specified

Profession: Law enforcement administrator

Political: Chmn, St. Clair County Bd, 1980-88. Appointed by Gov James R. Thompson to head a study of converting Scott AFB to joint military-civilian use. (CQ, Aug88) Defeated Robert H. Gaffner (R) with a 51.5% in a special 9Aug88 election to fill the seat of Rep Mel Price (D-IL) who died. Sworn in 10Aug88. Redistricted in 1992 to the 12th (formerly the 21st District). Reelected in 1998 with 60%, ran unopposed in 2000 and in 2002 was reelected to the redrawn 12th District with 69% of the vote.

Rep Costello is a moderate who is somewhat liberal when dealing with economic issues. Represents industrial communities in the southwest part of the state once booming with steel, coal and stockyard businesses. Focuses on improving the region's transportation infrastructure as a means of sustaining the economy. (CQ Profile, 2003) Scott AFB is one of the region's main employers. In the 102nd Congress, voted against authorizing the use of force in the Gulf war; his son served with the Army's 82nd Airborne unit that was sent to the Persian Gulf. In the 105th Congress, asked the Air Force to look at other options before moving the Combat Climatology Center, with its 140+ jobs, from Scott AFB. Urged DoD to procure ALQ-135 (low band) jammer for F-15E, a new technology, made in his home state. (CR, 4Jun98) \$80M worth of military construction work commenced at Scott AFB in April 98, paving the way for the arrival of the ANG's 126th Refueling Wing (KC-135's) which was moved to Scott from Chicago's O'Hare airport. (St Louis Post Dispatch, 3Apr98) Served on the House Budget Cmte until the 106th Congress.

In the 106th Congress, opposed as "impractical" a missile defense policy bill, stating that it would impede progress on proliferation and nuclear arms control. Supported retaining a role for Congress in the war powers debate over Yugoslavia / Kosovo. Did not believe it is right for the President to act unilaterally to put US forces into ground battle in Kosovo without the explicit authority of the Congress. Seeks to develop MidAmerica St Louis Airport (just north of Scott AFB) as a feeder destination for Lambert-St Louis Intl' Airport. In April 2000 visited Laughlin AFB for a UPT graduation, T-38 orientation flight, and base visit. In the 107th Congress warned that the US could not afford to become dependent on foreign sources of steel. Supports retaining both HQ's for US Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command at Scott. Said Scott was well positioned to avoid closure as a result of the 2005 BRAC process, and downplayed talk of retiring the C-9 Nightingale medical transport planes at the base.

In the 108th Congress expressed appreciation to the troops and President Bush for their success thus far in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In March 03 was elected co-chairman of the House Impact Aid Coalition.

AF Bases: Scott AFB (Also Reserve Forces)

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